

The city in modern Chinese literature and film: configurations of space, time, and gender.

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The city in modern Chinese literature and film: configurations of space, time, and gender.

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Abstract : An exploration is presented of the ways in which the city and urban space have been represented in modern Chinese literature and film; based on three alternative literary and filmic configurations (i.e. symbolic constructions) of the city in modern Chinese literature and film.

investigate the ways the city is placed in an ambivalent, if not negative, light configurations; and to work toward an understanding of how one can study the city/country problematic in modern Chinese literary history. Three typical configurations are constructed: the city in space, the city in time, and the city gender. It is shown how modern Chinese literature and film have contrasted configurations in the representations of two cities: Beijing, a traditional city of rural values, personal relationships, leisure, and a disdain for Western values; Shanghai, a modern city dominated by money and exchange values, frantic the pursuit of pleasure, variety, and Western lifestyles. Many literary and film drawn upon, and presented in such a way that, together with certain canon interpreted from new perspectives, point to an important structure of urban modern China.

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